

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No: 10/673,573
Sughrue Ref: Q77779

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are all the claims pending in the application. By way of this amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 26, 27 and 33, amended claims 1-25, 28-32 and 34-35, and added new claims 36 and 37. Claims 36 and 37 respectively correspond to claims 1 (unamended) + 11 + 15; and claim 1 (unamended) + 21 + 23.

Applicants would first like to express their appreciation for the Examiner having indicated that dependent claims 15 and 23 contain allowable subject matter. It is therefore submitted that claims 36 and 37 are allowable. Applicants note that the Examiner did not enter any prior art rejection against claims 8, 10, 17, 18, 22, and 31. Thus, it is believed that these claims contain allowable subject matter as well.

With respect to the objection to claims 13 and 14 and the §112 (second paragraph) rejection of claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 12-14, 16-18 and 26-29, Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully reviewing the claims and for indicating those aspect of the claims which are deemed to be indefinite. Applicants have amended the claims with the Examiner's comments in mind. Thus, it is submitted that the objection to claims 13 and 14 and the §112 (second paragraph) rejection of the claims has been overcome.

In addition, Applicants have amended claim 22 to address the § 112 (first paragraph) rejection entered in the third paragraph of the Office Action. It is noted that claim 22 is directed to the embodiment of Figure 6 of the application.

As to the prior art rejection entered in paragraphs 4-11 of the Office Action, Applicants submit that, as amended, the claims patentably distinguish over the cited art.

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More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the welt core is substantially covered by a decorative material which is made of a mesh fabric, a synthetic or genuine leather, or another textile fiber. Further, claim 1 requires that the welt flap include at least one fastening element which is integrally formed therewith. It is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest this aspect of the invention.

Beginning with the Clark reference (U.S. Patent No. 1,689,194), this reference is directed to trim molding for use on the exterior of a vehicle. As discussed in lines 70-73 and illustrated in Figure 2, the molding is made of a single piece of metal and includes a head 13 and a wedge shaped main body 14. As can be seen, Clark does not teach or suggest the claimed welt of the present invention which includes a welt core substantially covered by a decorative material consisting of fabric, synthetic or genuine leather or another textile fabric. Instead, it is clearly directed to a metallic mold for use on the outside of a vehicle. As such, it is submitted that claim 1 and its dependent claims patentable distinguish over Clark.

Turning to the Selbert reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,789,201), in the rejection, the Examiner contends that element 22 (which is a base portion) of the trim attaching strip 20 corresponds to the welt core, and that projections 24 and 25 correspond to the claimed laterally protruding welt flap. However, element 20 is simply a trim attachment strip which is used for anchoring a seat cover material 10, as best shown in Figure 4 of the reference. As can be readily appreciated from reviewing Fig. 6 of the reference, there is no teaching or suggestion of providing a decorative material of any type around the base portion 22 which the Examiner

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analogizes to the welt core. In short, Selbert is not at all relevant to the invention recited in the present claims.

Turning to the Lewis reference (U.S. Patent no. 2,616,723), this reference is directed to a metal welting for use on fenders of an automobile. *See* column 1, lines 30-35. Thus, the reference fails to teach or suggest the features recited in claim 1 including the decorative material made from mesh fabric, synthetic or genuine leather or another textile fabric. Indeed, since the entire focus of Lewis is to fender welting, the material 30 is a metal cover, as discussed in column 3, lines 15-20. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and its dependent claims patentably distinguish over Lewis.

Finally, Meyer (U.S. Patent No. 3,775,927) is irrelevant to the present invention. In rejecting the claims, the Examiner references Figure 4 of Meyer and argues that the member M corresponds to the claimed welt core and the member F corresponds to the claimed protruding flap. However, as amended, claim 1 recites that the welt flap comprises at least one fastening element integrally formed therewith and protruding therefrom. The aperture, which the Examiner analogizes to the claimed fastening element, clearly does not meet this requirement of claim 1. Rather, an entirely separate fastening projecting 30 must be used in the Meyer retainer system.

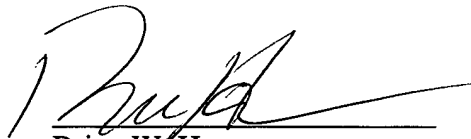
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the application are patentable over the cited art. It is therefore requested that the application be passed to issue at the earliest possible convenience. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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